

TO
THE HONOURABLE
KNIGHTS, CITIZENS
And
BURGESSES,
OF THE
COMMONSHOUSE
OF
PARLIAMENT
Assembled.

The humble Petition of the Master, Wardens, and Assistants of the Company of Clothworkers of the City of London, in the behalfe of themselves, and of the Artizan Clothworkers of the same Company.

SHewETH,



Hat whereas many thousand Families of Clothworkers in the City of *London* and elsewhere, have for hundred of yeares heretofore maintained themselves, and lived comfortably, by the rowing and shearing of broad and narrow Cloathes. Whiles they enjoyed the benefit of severall Statutes provided for their better employment, and reliefe; as namely, the Statute 33. *Hen. 8. Chap. 19.* which prohibits any person or persons to transport any white woollen Cloath, above the value of 4. l. or any coloured Cloath, above the value of 3. l. undressed under paine of forfeiting the same; and of 8. *Eliz. Chap. 6.* which enacts, that for every nine Cloathes unwrought to bee shipped beyond the Seas, contrary to any Statute in force, by vertue of any licence to bee granted, the party who should carry over the same, shall transport one woollen Cloath of like sort, length, breath, and goodnesse, ready wrought and dressed, under paine of forfeiting for every such nine Cloathes, transported contrary to this Statute the summe of tenne pounds, the moyety of all which forfeitures, were to accrew to the Company of Clothworkers for the reliefe of their Poore; yet of late yeares, divers licenses and dispensations to transport Cloaths unwrought have beene granted to sundry persons for their private lucre, contrary to these Acts, whereby your Petitioners have beene deprived of their naturall birth right, the dressing of *English* Cloath, and Aliens in forraigne parts employed, in, and enriched by their trade, to the great prejudice of your Petitioners, and the Common-wealth; And whereas your Petitioners for their reliefe herein, have formerly commenced suites against sundry Merchants for the forfeitures, due unto them by the said Acts, their suites have beene stopped by speciall Orders from the Councel-Table: And one lately commenced against one Master *Thomas Smith*, was by the entreaty of a Committee of this Honourable Assembly surceased, upon promise, they should bee relieved upon their Petition. And to adde to their affliction, many Gig-Mills for rowing of Cloath, have beene erected and used of late yeares about *Strandwater*, by *Thomas Webbe* and divers others, contrary to the Statute of 5. *Edw. 6. Chap. 22.* Their Wardens in their searches withstood by Cloathworkers, who are free of other Companies, as Master *Henry Leaves* and others, against the expresse provision of 39. *Eliz. Chap. 13.* Their wages for their worke paid weekly heretofore, commonly deferred for sundry Moneths by Merchants and Drapers, who employ them to their utter undoing.

In tender consideration, whereof your Petitioners humbly pray, that those foresaid Statutes may bee put in due execution, and all dispensations against them declared void in Law; all Gig-mills suppressed, all Cloathworkers within five miles every way distant from the City of *London*, incorporated into the Company of Clothworkers of the City of *London*, for the better regulating of their Trade, and that all your Petitioners may recieve ready money for their worke, in such manner, and under the same penalties or greater, as the Cloathworkers of *Shrewsbury* receive for their worke by the Statute of 8. *Eliz. Chap. 7.* and that all His Majesties leige people may freely trade in Cloath, according to the Statute of 12. *Hen. 7. Chap. 6.* and all Pattents to the contrary bee suppressed.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.